





Faculty Member Contact Information

Name	Carlee Hawkins
Contact Info	
SIUE Email	carhawk@siue.edu
Campus Box	1121
Department	Psychology

1 Funded, 1 Unfunded URCA Assistant

	This position is ONLY open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	M
	This project deals with social justice issues.	
X	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
X	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
	This project deals with community outreach.	
	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	I

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

No

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

9

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

PSYC491 3

Location of research/creative activities:

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

Students will conduct research on the psychology of awe - a (mostly) positive emotion that we feel when we are in the presence of something vast in size (e.g., the grand canyon) or scope (e.g., a newborn baby) that decreases our sense of self and expands our view. We run experiments to determine how awe impacts learning-related and other psychological outcomes.

I also have some unfinished projects related to bias education so students may assist with that too.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

In 2024-25, our lab designed and conducted an experiment examining the effect of awe on learning, love of learning, and belonging. We read a book and some journal articles about awe and discussed and summarized them. Then, we designed an experiment, identifying specific videos to manipulate awe, specified a sample to recruit, and identified surveys and tests that could measure our outcomes. We submitted an IRB application, programmed the study into Qualtrics, analyzed the data in SPSS, and created a poster together to present at a conference in Chicago in April 2025 and other conferences on campus. We will likely work on writing up these results and designing a new study this Fall, which will likely include data collection in person on campus.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

Students can expect to improve their:

1. Research skills: study design, article reading, specific programs like Qualtrics and SPSS
2. Oral communication: summarizing, discussing, asking questions, presenting
3. Writing: writing research summaries, abstracts, results
4. Teamwork: communicating with lab, professor, and outside parties
5. Professional: career/educational goals, resume/cv development, organization, time management

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

Weekly meetings will be scheduled once lab is finalized.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

All work is expected to be on campus

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

Preferred PSYC220/221 completed or currently enrolled

Other requirements or notes to applicants: